

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers and at least one manufacturer for a
3 plurality of goods;
4 receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;
5 processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the manufacturers of the goods
6 in the order and one of the plurality of retailers are each credited with a sum representing their
7 portion of a total value of the order according to the price data.

1 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
2 selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer warehouses to fill the order.

1 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein obtaining price data comprises:
2 obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by the manufacturer; and
3 obtaining from the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data is either a percentage above
2 the manufacturer cost, or a specified sum.

1 5. The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data varies among the goods
2 sold by the retailer.

1 6. The method of Claim 3 wherein the retailer profit data is the same for each of the
2 goods sold by the retailer.

1 7. The method of Claim 3 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is
2 determined by the manufacturer cost and the retailer profit data for the good.

1 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the order is received from either a consumer or
2 one of the plurality of retailers.

1 9. The method of Claim 2 wherein selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer
2 warehouses comprises:
3 identifying one manufacturer warehouse capable of filling the order such that the
4 manufacturer warehouse is geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected
5 retailer.

1 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein selecting one of a plurality of manufacturer
2 warehouses further comprises:
3 identifying one manufacturer warehouse that is in the same country as the customer.

1 11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
2 debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of the customer.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein debiting the total value is performed after the
2 order is shipped.

1 13. The method of Claim 12 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed
2 immediately after debiting the total value.

1 14. The method of Claim 1 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed at
2 a defined regular interval for multiple orders after the orders have shipped.

1 15. The method of Claim 1 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:
2 retaining a commission.

1 16. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
2 obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers and each of the manufacturers.

1 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein obtaining goods-related data comprises:
2 obtaining a product data and an inventory data from each of the manufacturers; and
3 obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1 18. A method comprising:
2 obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and at
3 least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;
4 receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;
5 selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;
6 processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill
7 the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturers of the goods in the order are
8 each credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the
9 price data.

1 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein obtaining price data comprises:
2 obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by the manufacturer;

3 obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for the goods the
4 distributor distributes; and

5 obtaining from the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

1 ~~20.~~ 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage
2 above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a
3 percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified
4 sum.

1 21. The method of Claim 20 wherein distributor profit data varies among the goods
2 distributed by the distributor; and wherein retailer profit data varies among the goods sold by the
3 retailer.

1 22. The method of Claim 20 wherein distributor profit data is the same for each of the
2 goods distributed by the distributor; and wherein retailer profit data is the same for each of the
3 goods sold by the retailer.

1 23. The method of Claim 20 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is
2 determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for
3 the good.

1 24. The method of Claim 20:
2 wherein two or more levels of distributors participate in providing the goods but only the
3 selected distributor fills the order;

4 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is determined by the manufacturer cost, the
5 distributor profit data for each of the participating distributors, and the retailer profit data for the
6 good; and

7 wherein processing a monetary transaction further comprises:

8 crediting all distributors who participated in providing the goods a sum
9 representing their portion of the total value of the order.

1 25. The method of Claim 18 wherein the order is received from either a consumer or
2 one of the plurality of retailers.

1 26. The method of Claim 18 wherein selecting a distributor comprises:
2 identifying one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is
3 geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1 27. The method of Claim 26 wherein selecting a distributor further comprises:
2 identifying one distributor that is in the same country as the customer.

1 28. The method of Claim 18 further comprising:
2 debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of the customer.

1 29. The method of Claim 28 wherein debiting the total value is performed after the
2 order is shipped.

1 30. The method of Claim 28 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed
2 immediately after debiting the total value.

1 31. The method of Claim 18 wherein processing a monetary transaction is performed
2 at a defined regular interval for multiple orders after the orders have shipped.

1 32. The method of Claim 18 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:
2 retaining a commission.

1 33. The method of Claim 18 further comprising:
2 obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers, each of the distributors, and each
3 of the manufacturers.

1 34. The method of Claim 33 wherein obtaining goods-related data comprises:
2 obtaining a product data from each of the manufacturers;
3 obtaining an inventory data from each of the distributors; and
4 obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1 35. A method comprising:
2 obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and a
3 manufacturer for a plurality of goods;
4 receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;
5 selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;
6 processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill
7 the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturer are each contemporaneously
8 credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the price
9 data.

1 36. The method of Claim 35 wherein obtaining price data comprises:

obtaining a manufacturer cost for the goods supplied by the manufacturer;
obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for the goods inventoried
by the distributor; and
obtaining from each of the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods sold by the retailer.

37. The method of Claim 35 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage
above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a
percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified
sum.

38. The method of Claim 36 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is
determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for
the good.

39. The method of Claim 35 wherein receiving an order comprises:
receiving an order from either a consumer or one of the plurality of retailers.

40. The method of Claim 35 wherein selecting a distributor comprises:
selecting one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is
geographically closest to a customer or a customer selected retailer.

41. The method of Claim 35 wherein processing a monetary transaction comprises:
debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of a customer.

42. A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions which when
executed by a processor cause the machine to perform operations
comprising:

obtaining price data from each of a plurality of retailers, a plurality of distributors, and at least one manufacturer for a plurality of goods;
receiving an order for at least one of the plurality of goods;
selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill the order;
processing a monetary transaction for the order such that the distributor selected to fill the order, one of the plurality of retailers, and the manufacturers of the goods in the order are each contemporaneously credited with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the order according to the price data.

43. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein obtaining price data causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

obtaining a manufacturer cost for goods supplied by each of the manufacturers;
obtaining from each of the distributors a distributor profit data for of the goods the distributor distributes; and
obtaining from each of the retailers a retailer profit data for the goods the retailer sells.

44. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein distributor profit data is either a percentage above the manufacturer cost or a specified sum; and wherein retailer profit data is either a percentage above the sum of the manufacturer cost and the distributor profit data, or a specified sum.

45. The machine readable medium of Claim 43 wherein a retail price of the plurality of goods is determined by the manufacturer cost, the distributor profit data, and the retailer profit data for the good.

1 46. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein receiving an order causes the
2 machine to perform operations comprising:

3 receiving the order from either a consumer or one of the plurality of retailers.

1 47. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein selecting a distributor causes
2 the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 selecting one distributor capable of filling the order such that the distributor is
4 geographically closest to either a customer or a customer selected retailer.

1 48. The machine readable medium of Claim 47 wherein selecting a distributor causes
2 the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 selecting the one distributor that is in the same country as the customer.

1 49. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein processing a monetary
2 transaction causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 debiting the total value of the order against a credit card account of a customer.

1 50. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 wherein processing a monetary
2 transaction causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 retaining a commission responsive to the total value of the order.

1 51. The machine readable medium of Claim 42 further causing the machine to perform
2 operations comprising:

3 obtaining goods-related data from each of the retailers, each of the distributors, and each
4 of the manufacturers.

1 52. The machine readable medium of Claim 51 wherein obtaining goods-related data
2 causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 obtaining a product data from each of the manufacturers;

4 obtaining an inventory data from each of the distributors; and

5 obtaining a product line data from each of the retailers.

1 53. A method comprising:

2 obtaining product data and price data for a plurality of goods from each of a plurality of
3 retailers, a plurality of distributors, and a plurality of manufacturers;

4 receiving orders for some of the plurality of goods from a plurality of customers;

5 obtaining credit card authorization for the orders;

6 selecting one of the plurality of distributors to fill each of the orders;

7 receiving an acknowledgement when each order ships;

8 debiting the credit card accounts of the customers;

9 crediting the distributors, the retailers, and the manufacturers at a defined time after orders
10 have been shipped with a sum representing their portion of a total value of the orders shipped
11 according to the price data; and

12 retaining a commission for the orders.